



MDE Recommends

RESIDENCY

The sections of the *Revised School Code* and *State School Aid Act* that address these issues are contained in the Michigan Compiled Laws under MCL 380.951-380.956, 380.1148, 380.1148a, 380.1401-380.1416, 380.1561, 388.1603, 388.1705 and 388.1763a.

Resident Students

"District of residence" means the district in which a pupil's custodial parent or parents or legal guardian resides [MCL 388.1603]. If a student's parent or legal guardian reside in different districts, either district may enroll the student as a resident, regardless of which parent or legal guardian has custody [MCL 380.1148a]. A student who has reached age 18 or who is an emancipated minor is a resident of the district in which he or she resides.

Placement in a Licensed Home or With a Relative

If a child resides in a licensed home in which he or she was placed by court order or by a child placing agency, the child is considered a resident of the district where the home in which the child is living is located. This is also true in the case where a child's parent or legal guardian is unable to provide a suitable home for the child and the child is placed with a relative for the purpose of providing a suitable home [380.1148]. When a child is placed with a relative or in a licensed home by the child's parent or guardian, the child will be considered a resident of the district where the child is residing. The placement must be for the purpose of providing a suitable home. The child will not be considered a resident of the district where he or she is placed if the placement is for educational purposes, such as taking advantage of an educational program.

Verification of Residency

A school district may require reasonable verification that a pupil meets the requirements for being considered a resident of the school district. Sources of documentation to verify residency status may include: rent receipts, mortgage payment receipts, utility bills, property tax bills, voter registration, and driver's license address. Verification may also include, for example, establishing that the placement with a relative is for the purpose of providing the student with a suitable home. A district cannot, however, require the relative to be appointed as legal guardian of the child because it imposes requirements not authorized by law [MCL 380.1148 and *Feaster v Portage Public Schools*, 451 Mich 351, 1996].

Homeless Student

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act ensures that homeless children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate residence have access to a free and appropriate public school education. The Act requires the removal of barriers in public schools so that homeless children and youth can enroll and receive successful educational opportunities [42 USC 11302]. For further information, contact the Homeless Education Office at (517) 373-4581 or (517) 373-6057; Web information address: <http://www.state.mi.us/mde/off/csaf/index.htm#home>.



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Home Schools

Section 1561(3)(f) of the *Revised School Code* states that a child shall not be required to attend a public school if the child is being educated by his or her parent or legal guardian at the child's home in an organized educational program that is appropriate given the age, intelligence, ability, and any psychological limitation of the child, in the subject areas of reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing, and English grammar. Students in home school families operating under the exemption are not entitled to Auxiliary Services. Information regarding home schools can be obtained from the Department at (517) 373-1833.

Tuition Pupils

The board of a school district may admit non-resident pupils to the schools of the district. The board shall determine the rates of tuition of the non-resident pupils and shall collect the tuition [MCL 380.1401].

Property Transfers

Property owners who reside on the border that is contiguous to school districts may seek to have their property transferred to the neighboring school district. Information regarding property transfer requests and requirements can be obtained from the local school district or from the Department at (517) 373-8369. [MCL 380.951-380.956].

This information is provided as a service of the Michigan Department of Education and is distributed with the understanding that the Department is not engaged in rendering legal advice. Those individuals desiring or requiring legal advice should seek the services of an attorney.

Final March 29, 1999